

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-11 EUR-12 EB-08
AID-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /114 W
-----056507 151353Z /72

R 141240Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4966
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, WZ
SUBJECT: REFUGEE SITUATION IN SWAZILAND

REFS: (A) MBABANE 1745(NOTAL) (B) MBABANE 1955 (NOTAL)

1. THREE-PERSON UN TEAM VISITED SWAZILAND JUNE 11-13 FOR CONSULTATIONS

WITH GOS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REFUGEE PROGRAMS AND TO GATHER
LATEST INFO FOR INCLUSION IN UNSYG'S REPORT TO JULY SESSION OF
ECOSOC. TEAM COMPRISED MR. BAHGAT-EL-TAWILL (EGYPTIAN) FROM
OFFICE OF ASYG FARAH; MR. RAYMOND MKHANDA (TANZANIAN) FROM UNHCR/
GENEVA; AND MRS. SHEILA PEARSON (UK) FROM EL-TAWIL'S OFFICE.

2. TEAM MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, VISITED
EXISTING REFUGEE INSTALLATIONS, AND INSPECTED FACILITIES CURRENTLY
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT MPAKA.

2. IN HOUR-LONG MEETING JUNE 12 WITH RESIDENT HEADS OF THREE
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (US, UK, AND ISRAEL), EL-TAWIL ASKED FOR CANDID
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VIEWS ON LOCAL REFUGEE SITUATION. HOWEVER, WHEN FACED WITH COMMENTS
THAT TOOK GOS TO TASK ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ITS TREATMENT OF REFUGEES
,
INCLUDING PRISON-LIKE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED FOR MPAKA, EL-TAWIL
REPLIED STRONGLY IN DEFENSE OF GOS. SPLIT IN TEAM'S THINKING
BECAME CLEAR WHEN MKANDA JUMPED IN TO SUPPORT MISSION CHIEFS'
HUMANITARIAN-ORIENTED COMMENTS. EL-TAWIL MADE CLEAR IN MEETING

THAT HE DID NOT CONCUR IN MKANDA'S POSITION; HE ALSO SOUGHT ME OUT AT RECEPTION THAT EVENING TO CHARACTERIZE MKANDA'S REMARKS AS "HOT AIR." MISSION CHIEFS REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IT APPROPRIATE FOR DONORS TO PUT FINE-TUNED PRESSURE ON GOS TO IMPROVE REFUGEE TREATMENT WHERE POSSIBLE. IN FAIRNESS TO EL-TAWIL, HIS POSITION (WHICH HE DID NOT CONVEY VERY ARTICULATEDLY) WAS THAT DONORS SHOULD NOT HOLD UP THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AWAITING THE DAY THAT GOS WOULD ACHIEVE PERFECT RECORD IN HANDLING REFUGEES.

4. ONE OF MOST CONTROVERSIAL ELEMENTS IN GOS PLANS FOR MPAKA FACILITIES IS PROVISION FOR OVER SEVEN KILOMETERS OF SIX-FOOT-HIGH INDUSTRIAL FENCING. FUNDING PROBLEMS MAY FORCE ELIMINATION OF THIS EXTRAVAGANCE, ALTHOUGH SABITI SAYS HE HAS NOT YET BEEN INVITED TO COST-CUTTING MEETING MENTIONED PARA 1 REF A.

5. AS FOR STUDENT ATTITUDES, SABITI SAYS THE 57 STUDENTS MENTIONED PARA 4 REF B SEEM LARGELY RESIGNED TO REMAINING IN SWAZILAND AND HAVE NOT EXPRESSED STRONG VIEWS ABOUT LEAVING TO CONTINUE EDUCATION ELSEWHERE. THEY APPEAR AVERSE TO LOSING ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR

WHICH CHANGE OF SCHOOLS WOULD ENTAIL. IN THIS CONNECTION SABITI SAYS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE FUND (IUEF) HAS UNFILLED SECONDARY SCHOOL SLOTS IN NIGERIA FOR WHICH REFUGEE STUDENTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE; NO TAKERS AT PRESENT.

6. SABITI SAYS THERE IS NOTHING NEW ON MOZAMBICANS (PARA 4 REF A) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTHOUGH HS TAKES EVERY OCCASION TO PRESS UNHCR/GENEVA FOR INFO ON ASYLUM POSSIBILITY IN BRAZIL. GOS HAS RELAXED ITS POSITION ON MOZAMBICANS TO POINT THAT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO MBABANE SEVERAL DAYS AGO UNDER SABITI'S SUPERVISION TO BUY CLOTHING WITH UNHCR FUNDS. RESETTLEMENT IN PORTUGAL OR BRAZIL STILL SEEMS BEST SOLUTION FOR THEM, HOWEVER.

7. EMBASSY ARRANGING FOR VIVIAN ANDERSON, AFR/SA, TO REVIEW REFUGEE SITUATION WITH SABITI AND GOS REPS ON HER RETURN TO MBABANE. WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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